



April 22, 2025

Honorable Members of the City Council Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FOR FAMILIES DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO THE
MAYOR'S PROPOSED FY 2025-26 BUDGET**

The Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD) appreciates the support of Mayor Bass in her proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26, especially given the financial challenges the City is facing. The Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD) was established in 2021 to plan, coordinate, direct, and manage Citywide poverty reduction initiatives to support low-income families and communities. As a performance-based and data-driven department, CIFD has positioned itself as a leader in implementing initiatives focused on preventing homelessness, reducing housing instability, and alleviating economic hardship for low-income Angelenos.

As the General Manager of CIFD, I have led the establishment of a strategic vision that aligns with the Mayor and City Council's priorities to reduce homelessness, leverage federal, state, and local funding to alleviate poverty, and create economic empowerment opportunities for low-income Angelenos. At CIFD, we work to end generational poverty by creating pathways to shared community wealth where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. We have spearheaded transformative initiatives that have enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations, significantly improving the quality of life for the residents we serve.

CIFD has made meaningful, measurable progress since its inception:

- **223,735 Angelenos served** across housing, family support, workforce training, shelter-based services for survivors of gender-based violence, and immigrant-integration services
- **200+ nonprofit partners** activated citywide
- **35.6% increase in residents served** in FY 2023–24
- **Contract execution streamlined** to under 30 days and **invoice processing reduced to 15 days**—ensuring our partners can focus on delivering, not surviving
- **Solid Ground** scaled to all 19 FamilySource Centers, helping prevent homelessness before it begins by using individualized housing stability plans to identify families on the verge of eviction and displacement, offering rental assistance, access to public benefits, and other income supports such as the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits
- **Survivors First** achieved a **94% housing retention rate** for survivors of intimate partner violence

Furthermore, as the citywide Consolidated Plan Administrator, we have a unique opportunity to recommend utilizing federal resources to expand the range of services offered and support the citywide implementation of economic development activities and housing-related activities such as the acquisition of interim housing and permanent affordable housing for vulnerable Angelenos.

We are grateful for the Mayor's continued support of the FamilySource System (FSS). In the current fiscal year, the FSS has already assisted 43,826 unique clients, increasing their combined household income by \$15.6 million and preventing 8,602 families from experiencing homelessness through \$3.4 million in direct financial assistance. This system has proven to be a crucial lifeline, standing up several emergency response efforts, including the recent wildfires. At the direction of the Mayor and in partnership with the City Council, the FSS launched Impacted Worker and Family Recovery Centers, which connected workers and their families to vital resources such as food, financial assistance, public benefits, and referrals to employment opportunities. This collaboration has made a significant impact on the community, offering much needed support during times of crisis.

We are, however, navigating how to respond to the incredibly difficult funding reductions that impact programs we deeply value and serve our most vulnerable residents. We are concerned about the \$3.8 million reduction to the Survivor Services System, which results in the loss of shelter beds for survivors who are, by federal definition, experiencing homelessness. This reduction will also limit our ability to expand our Survivors First homeless prevention program and rescinds partial funding allocated last fiscal year to support Victim Service Providers (VSPs) who were already grappling with steep losses in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. In this political climate it is even more important to protect and sustain local investments in these life-saving services. We urge the Mayor and the City Council to explore allocating any other available resources to restore this funding.

Another program to elevate is RepresentLA, which has played a vital role in supporting our immigrant communities, particularly undocumented Angelenos. CIFD remains steadfast in its dedication to immigrant inclusion and equity. Our department will actively pursue alternative avenues to continue this work, leveraging state funding opportunities, strengthening partnerships with L.A. County, and engaging philanthropic partners to sustain the core mission of RepresentLA. In partnership with the Mayor and the City Council, we remain committed to ensuring that immigrant Angelenos continue to receive the support and services they deserve, especially during these trying times.

CIFD's workforce is essential to the successful management and delivery of critical services to some of our most vulnerable residents. All of the proposed position eliminations directly impact the vital programs that CIFD manages, and the support we offer to other City departments as the citywide Con Plan Administrator. Some of the positions being proposed for elimination are legally required to ensure compliance with federal and state guidelines. Eliminating these positions would severely hinder CIFD's ability to meet these obligations. These positions will also become increasingly critical if the proposed departmental consolidation is implemented. Based on the Mayor's Proposed Budget, CIFD will be consolidated and will go from 105 positions to 290 positions with a budget twice its current size. CIFD will take the next couple of weeks to understand the programs, positions, and resources transferred to CIFD and understand the impact of the reductions on such programs. We will report back to the Mayor and City Council, as

instructed, with a report that includes a revised organizational chart, name changes for the new and/or existing Divisions, consolidation of administrative functions, realignment of service facilities, and all other related changes.

Lastly, I recognize that we have difficult decisions ahead. I want to assure you that, despite the challenges that come with restructuring departments, there is an opportunity for the City to lay out a bold vision and do something transformative: build a comprehensive, outcomes-driven, and laser-focused human services department that prioritizes economic mobility and stability for every Angeleno.

We know that poverty, homelessness, and lack of opportunity do not exist in silos—so neither should our systems. By bringing together the Departments of Aging, Economic and Workforce Development, Youth Development, and Community Investment for Families under a single, larger infrastructure, we can break down barriers between programs, braid funding more effectively, and meet people where they are at every stage of life.

I look forward to the opportunity to work side-by-side with the Mayor, the City Council, and our community stakeholders to shape this new department into something that doesn't just respond to the moment—but reimagines how we serve Angelenos for generations to come.

Respectfully,



Abigail R. Marquez
General Manager
Community Investment for Families Department

CC: Carolyn Webb de Macias, Chief of Staff to the Mayor
Brenda Shockley, Deputy Mayor of Economic Opportunity
Matt Hale, Deputy Mayor of Finance, Operations, and Innovation
Bernyce Hollins, Budget Chief, Office of the Mayor
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Attachments: FY 24-25 CIFD Accomplishments
Organizational Charts



**COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT
FOR FAMILIES
DEPARTMENT**
Paths to Prosperity

OUR VISION

Break the cycle of generational poverty by building community wealth.

OUR MISSION

To align and augment community investments for families and neighborhoods in the City of Los Angeles and create opportunities for all Angelenos to prosper.

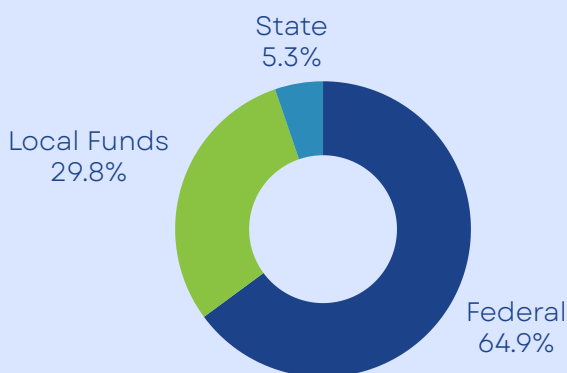
Administer

24 Programs
Totaling

\$250M

230 Contracts

70% Increase in
New Contracts



Processed

2,000

Invoices
within 15 days
of receipt



5%

Vacancy Rate



Met CDBG Timeliness
by
1.34x
Preserving
Federal Resources




53,758
People Served
Across Programs


2,394
Survivors
Served


1,575
Survivors
Avoided Homelessness


7,707
Hotline
Calls




Prevented
Homelessness
8,602
\$3.45M
Distributed in
rental assistance
\$21.8M
Increased
Household Income


\$1.1M
Grant to Support
Immigrant Integration


16,343
Tax Returns
Filed



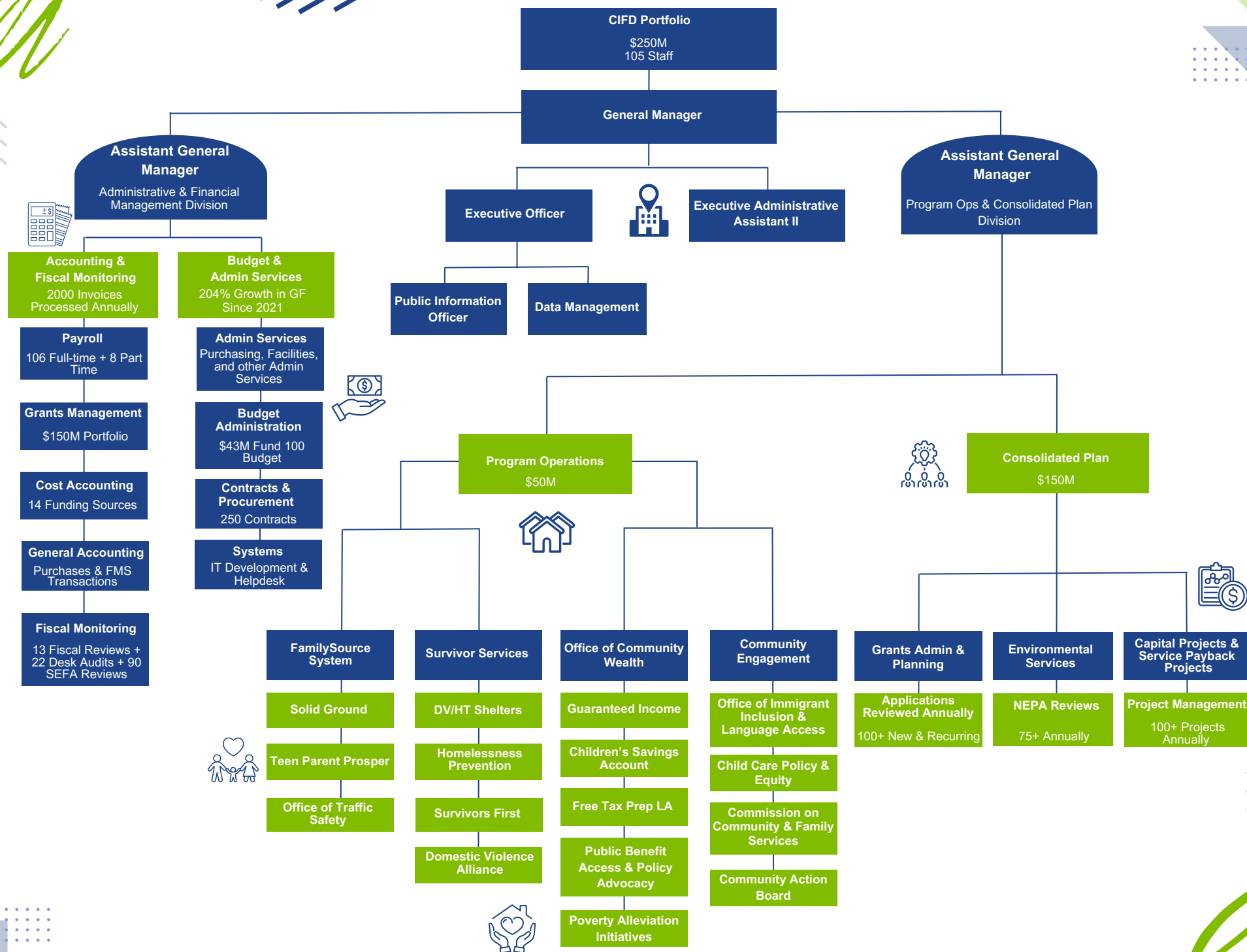
Refunds
\$15M
Tax Credits
56.8%
Increase from the
previous year



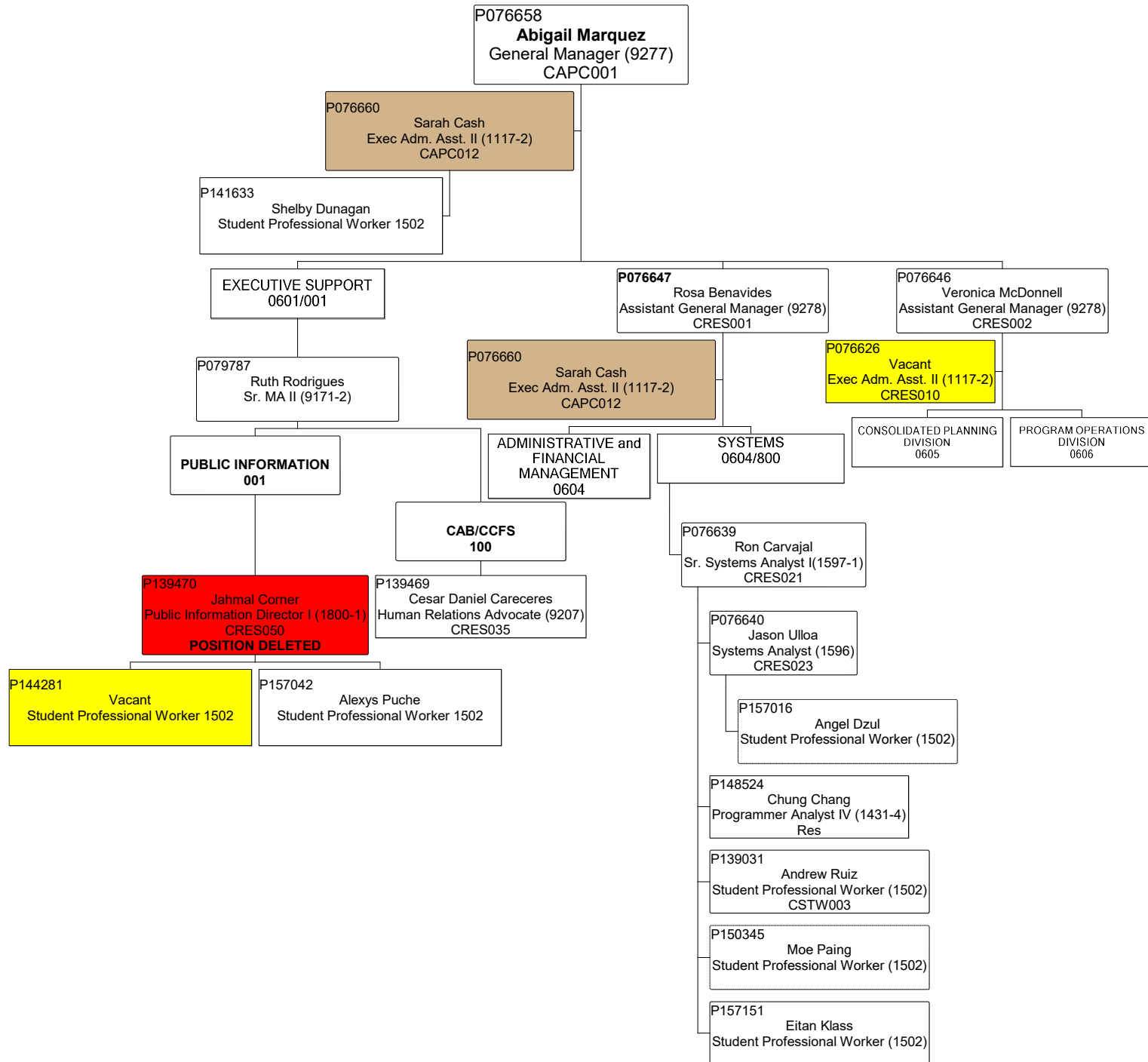
100K
College Savings
Accounts Opened
\$4.1M
Deposited



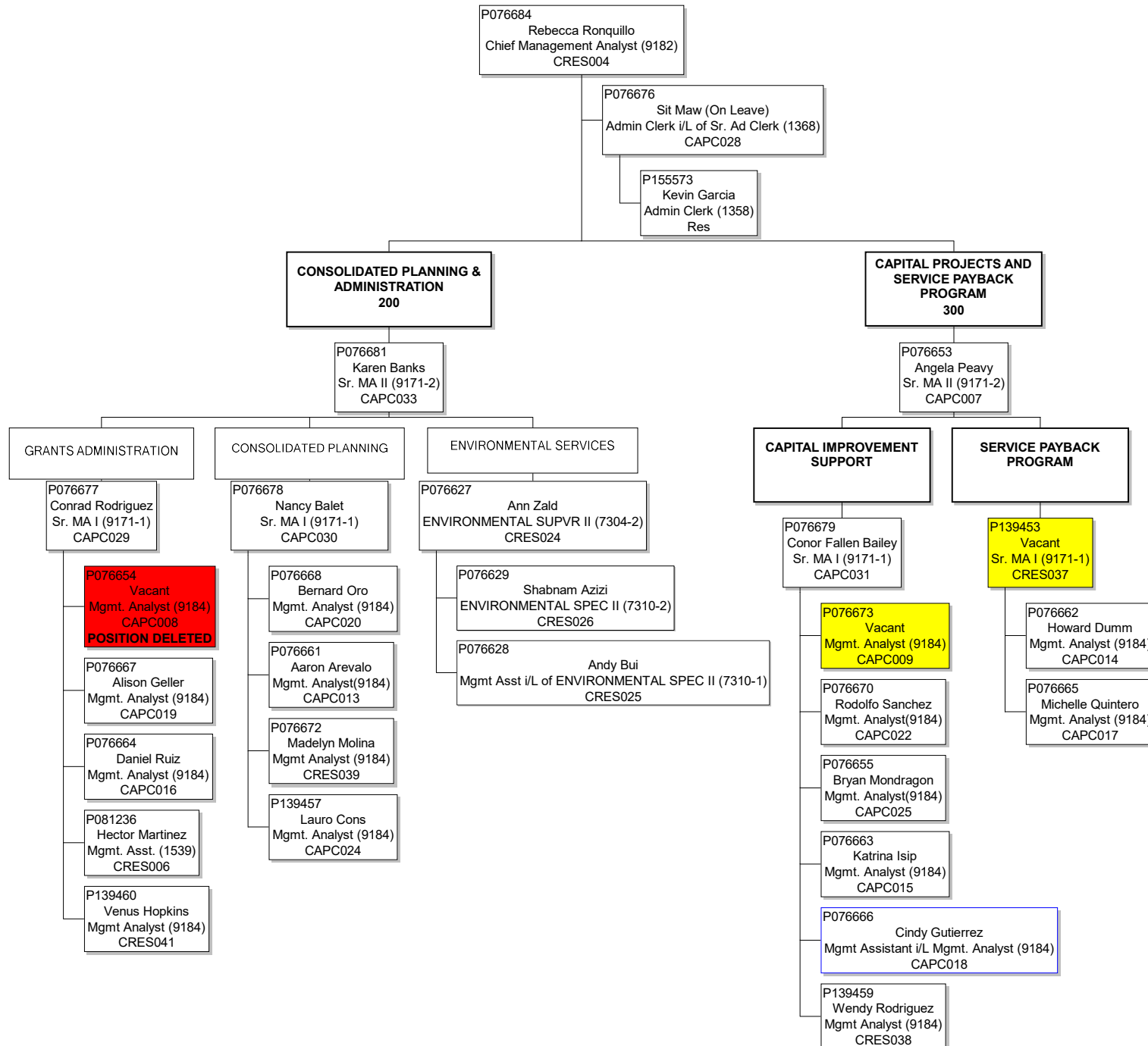
Secured
\$842,200
in Financial Aid and
Scholarships for Post-
Secondary Education



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FOR FAMILIES DEPARTMENT



0605 CONSOLIDATED PLANNING



0606 PROGRAM OPERATIONS

